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County tax rates likely to be set late

NEWPORT — A last-minute change to the county's budget form likely will mean Sullivan County tax rates will be set in the last two weeks of October.

The county delegation last week ratified an MS-42 form, the fiscal blueprint it must file with the state, that did not count transfers between county agencies as revenues.

The county still plans to raise \$9.3 million of its \$26 million budget through property taxes.

In July, the delegation had ratified

an MS-42 that listed one such transfer as \$1.2 million in revenue coming from a capital reserve fund that the county technically does not have.

The listing was a source of confusion for several county representatives who sounded the alarm that the county budget had a significant shortfall.

Though no shortfall existed, the county's accountant and the state Department of Revenue Administration recommended the revision to the budget form, county manager Ed Gil de Rubio said Wednesday.

The DRA now requires the county delegation to approve the minutes from last week's meeting, which it plans to do on Oct. 20.

Since the state must have completed paperwork from the county, municipalities and schools to set tax rates, documentation of that vote must be sent in before Sullivan County residents will know how much they will be paying in property taxes for the next year.

—Staff Report